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OCT 21 1999

EIS000300

5 MR. DEWES: Good evening. My name is John  
6 Dewes. I represent the Savannah River section of  
7 the American Nuclear Society. Our local section  
8 consists of some 800 scientists and engineers in  
9 the central Savannah River area. This area  
10 includes the Savannah River site as well as the  
11 Vogel nuclear power plant.

12 1 [ We strongly support the proposed activity to  
13 construct and operate a geologic repository at  
14 4 Yucca Mountain, Nevada.] The EIS reflects the  
15 results of extensive studies of the impacts of  
16 such a repository and leaves no doubt that Yucca  
17 Mountain can be built and operated without  
18 endangering the public or the environment. In  
19 addition, the EIS also clearly reflects the fact  
20 that current federal processes and regulations  
21 provide an unparalleled degree of assurance of  
22 public safety and of environmental protection for  
23 the shipment of radioactive material associated  
24 with a central repository for high-level waste.]

25 5... [ The establishment of a geologic repository

1       5 cont. for high-level nuclear waste is also one of the  
2           last remaining barriers to establishment of a  
3           viable nuclear fuel site for the United States as  
4           well as the key restraint to the continued use of  
5           nuclear technology for medical and industrial  
6           purposes. The central contribution of nuclear  
7           technology to the quality of life in the United  
8           States and sustainable development should not be  
9       6 underestimated. Nuclear science and technology  
10          promotes sustainable development by improving  
11          health and quality of life through varied  
12          applications such as nuclear medicine for  
13          diagnosis and treatment, food preservation,  
14          industrial processes, scientific research  
15          including many tracers used for environmental  
16          studies and -- of course -- the generation of  
17          nuclear power. Nuclear technology has clear  
18          benefits with negligible environmental impact.  

19       2... We also support this option for management of  
20           nuclear fuel because it maintains an important  
21           national asset in the most retrievable form for a  
22           significant period of time for potential future  
23           use. With this option, the radioactive waste is  
24           available for the application of new technologies  
25           being development, including transmutation of

1       2 cont. wastes as proposed by Senator Pete Domenici of New  
2           Mexico. This supports the concept of extracting  
3           the full benefit of nuclear technology rather than  
4           the small fraction currently utilized by the  
5           nuclear power industry. |

6           In conclusion, we maintain that the  
7           establishment of a sustainable nuclear technology  
8           is vital to maintaining the quality of life and  
9       3 the standard of living Americans now enjoy. | We  
10          support the selection of the central repository  
11          option proposed by the Department of Energy as  
12          being vital to the establishment of sustainable  
13          nuclear technology in the United States, whereas  
14          the no-action alternative does not. | Thank you for  
15          the opportunity to comment on this matter.

16               MS. SWEENEY: Thank you.

17               MR. LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Our next  
18          speaker is Ken Good, then Pete Wells and then  
19          Jenifer Leong.